

# EDUCATION IN FRANCE

## *Document for newly arrived Families and Students*

### THIS DOCUMENT ANSWERS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS :

- ◆ How can I register my child in a primary school, in a middle or a high school?
- ◆ My child does not yet speak French. Does the education system provide some help ?
- ◆ How is the education system in France organized ?
- ◆ Who are the main staff members in a primary school, in a middle or a high school ?
- ◆ Which group in my neighbourhood can help my child out of school ?

◆ How can I register my child in a primary school, a middle school or a high school ?

	Nursery School	Primary School	College and Secondary School
<b>Conditions</b>	From age 3 at the time of registration (before 31 December) From age 2 in special educational areas (ZEP, ZUS)	From <b>age 6 (C.P)</b> in the year of registration (before 31 December) Note that registration is often limited.	If your child is old enough and has the required certificates to enter a Secondary School, he or she should meet an <b>orientation advisor</b> who will evaluate his or her aptitudes and educational level with a series of tests.
<b>Registration procedures</b>	To register your child, contact <b>your town hall</b> . A registration certificate will be issued. Will have to give it to the School Headmaster.		Contact the <b>Inspection Académique</b> who will give you an appointment with an orientation advisor from the nearest centre known as <b>C.I.O.</b> Depending on vacant places and the place where you live, your child will be directed to a school and class for his or her level.
<b>Required documents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ The child's birth certificate and the identity card of the parent or legal tutor accompanying the child               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ His or her previous school record when available</li> <li>➤ A proof of residence</li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ A medical certificate and an updated vaccination certificate</li> </ul>		

◆ How is the education system in France organized ?

Foreword :

In France, school is **mandatory** from age 6 to 16

But a child can attend as of 3, and studies can of course be continued after 16.

Education in France is **public, secular** and **free of charge**

Private schools exist, where school fees are charged

Co-education prevails. Both boys and girls attend the same classes.

## Description of the academic cursus

READ FROM BOTTOM TO TOP

<b>Higher Education</b> 	<b>UNIVERSITIES or OTHER GRADUATE AND POST GRADUATE SCHOOLS</b>	Graduate and post graduate education can take 2 to 8 years, depending on the chosen degree program.  To apply, you need to have an Advance Level Certificate (A/Levels) or a high school certificate accepted in France.			
<b>Secondary Education</b> <b>2°</b> 	<b>GENERAL, TECHNOLOGICAL AND PROFESSIONAL HIGH SCHOOL</b>	<b>Terminale for general and technological Advance/Level Certificate known as « Bac général »</b>	<b>Professional High School Certificate known as Bac Pro (in 2 years)</b>	High School studies can take 2, 3 or even 4 years depending on the chosen options	
		Year 11    1 <sup>ère</sup>	<b>BEP ou CAP</b>		
		Year 10    2 <sup>nde</sup>	<b>2<sup>nde</sup> pro</b>		
	<b>MIDDLE SCHOOL</b>	Year 9    3e	<b>Age 14 – 15</b>	These 4 year studies end up with a Secondary School Certificate called "Brevet des collèges"	
		Year 8    4e	<b>Age 13 – 14</b>		
Year 7    5e		<b>Age 12 – 13</b>			
Year 6    6°		<b>Age 11 - 12</b>			
<b>Primary School</b> <b>1°</b> 	<b>PRIMARY SCHOOL</b>	Year 5    C.M.2	<b>Cycle 3</b>	<b>Age 10 - 11</b>	No final year examination in Primary School
		Year 4    C.M.1		<b>Age 9 -10</b>	
		Year 3    C.E.2		<b>Age 8 - 9</b>	
		Year 2    C.E.1	<b>Cycle 2</b>	<b>Age 7 - 8</b>	
	Year 1    C. P.	<b>Age 6 - 7</b>			
	<b>NURSERY SCHOOL</b>	<b>Grande section</b>	<b>Age 5 - 6</b>		
		<b>Moyenne section</b>	<b>Cycle 1</b>	<b>Age 4 - 5</b>	
<b>Petite section</b>		<b>Age 3 - 4</b> <b>Age 2 - 3</b>			

### ♦ My child does not yet speak French. What can the education system do to help ?

Students who do not yet speak French or do not master French orally and in writing are taken care of in a specific manner in almost every school.

While they attend **current classes** for their age and level, students can attend **special classes a few hours a week**. These classes are known as:

- **CLIN** (*Initiation Classes*) or **CRI** (*Catch-Up Classes*) in Primary Schools.
- **CLA** (*Welcome Classes*) or **FLE Device** (*French as a Foreign Language*) in Middle and High Schools.

These extra hours **are meant to help foreign children** who do not yet master French language to catch up with their French classmates and therefore integrate faster in the education system.

We learn especially French but we work also some learning basic necessary to succeed in whole school discipline. A special organization and well-adapted activities to favour the pupils' new-comers integration.

If you live in a rural area, specific individual help is organized for your child by teachers with the help of the CASNAV.

### ◆ Important school personalities you should know ?

#### **The Social Worker**

##### **In Primary School**

There is not National Education Social Worker in Primary Schools. Should a problem occur, contact the social service in your locality.

##### **In a Middle or High School**

The Social Worker is here to listen to students and their families. Whatever the problem might be (financial or other family difficulties), do not hesitate to make an appointment. Social Workers are bind by professional secret. Whatever you say will be confidential.

#### **The Orientation Advisor (C.O.P)**

In Middle and High Schools, the Orientation Advisor (C.O.P) informs students about their educational and career possibilities.

It is important for your child to meet the advisor to have an overall view of his or her capacities and motivations to anticipate better orientation.

#### **The Principal Advisor of Education (C.P.E)**

He is responsible (C.P.E) for the daily school life in Middle and High Schools. He takes care of late comings and absences. He is an important interlocutor for you and your child.

#### **The Nurse**

##### **In Primary School**

At your request, the Nurse or a school doctor can be called by your child's class teacher and meet you in school premises.

When it is possible, the school Nurse or doctor will consult your child for a general health check-up.

##### **In a Middle or High School**

In Middle Schools, the Nurse is present a few days a week. She is present every day in High Schools.

The Nurse gives first aid care to students.

The Nurse is also here to listen and respond to health questions from students and gives preventive, nutritive, hygiene and other health advice to students.

#### **The Head Teacher in Middle and High Schools**

He coordinates the team of teachers. Most preferred interlocutor of students to resolve conflicts, he is also the person most parents meet when needed. Never hesitate to take an appointment with him to know about your child's difficulties and progress in school.

### Welcoming in schools :

Do not hesitate to meet with **teachers, headmasters**, but also **school directors, principals, nurses and school doctors, social workers, orientation and education advisors**.

### ◆ Which association in my neighbourhood can help my child out of school ?

More and more **associations** in many neighbourhood work in coordination with schools and the **C.A.S.N.A.V.** to offer children after school classes or activities to improve their skills in French and facilitate their integration in French society (“accompagnement à la scolarité”).

Contact the teachers, the headmasters or the principal of college: they inform you the different steps to follow in order to inscribe your child(ren) in these structures.

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### For more information regarding education in France

A local association or teachers can put you in contact with the Inspection Académique office or the C.A.S.N.A.V. and the National Education Service to facilitate the integration in schools of new immigrants.

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